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two dangers: the one, of reading into words, events and persons a degree and kind of Christian meaning which contradicts the lower plane of life and knowledge peculiar to the chosen nation; the other, of regarding either some, or all, parts of these books as wanting in Messianic import, thus reducing them, measurably or altogether, to the level of natural religion. Both errors violate the historical law of Messianic revelation, and do a wrong to the written Word of God.

E. V. GERHART,
Lancaster, Pa.

A CHANGE SUGGESTED.

Paul's inspired opinion that all parts of the Old Testament are "profitable" for conviction, conversion and Christian culture, verified as it is by Christian history, outweighs all the shallow criticisms recently made on the Old Testament lessons. I believe the International Series can be greatly improved by selecting golden texts that are complete watchwords, not such meaningless fragments as that for February 1st, "When they heard that (?) they glorified the Lord," and by putting lessons on Christ regularly into the four months from December 1st to Easter (which in seven years would give the same amount of time to lessons on Christ as is now given, but in better harmony with the Church year than to have a lesson on Saul's Death for Christmas Sunday and another as inappropriate at Easter), but I do not believe there should be any less attention to the Old Testament, "the Savior's Bible." In the present seven years's course, one whole year was given to the book of Mark,—and three-fourths of next year is devoted to John, so that 51 months are given to the New Testament and only 33 to the Old, which is a little more than three times as large, making the proportionate attention given to the Old Testament only one-fifth as much as to the New, which evidently should not be lessened.

WILBUR F. CRAFTS,
New York.

NO STUDY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT BY THE INFANT CLASS.

Without entering upon any general criticism of the present International Sunday School Lesson system, it seems to me that the effort to secure perfect uniformity has prevented such adaptation of topics as is essential to the highest degree of success. The Primary Department, for instance, should be taught only the *Gospels*. Assuming that the usual period of instruction in that Department does not exceed four years, at most, in any fairly graded school, an opportunity is thus

presented for teaching the story of the Gospels in somewhat of fulness, covering from four to seven years. As, at the end of that period, the entire class will have been changed, a new arrangement of the same topics could be presented.

Beyond the Primary Department, I should favor the study of the Old and New Testaments, as at present, six months in each, because the two parts of the one great Book are so interwoven that an understanding of one is essential to an understanding of the other. That which our Lord deemed worth his while to master thoroughly, and which he so freely quoted, ought not to be set aside, or regarded as unworthy of study by our young people.

C. R. BLACKALL,
Philadelphia.

THE OLD TESTAMENT NOT TO BE DISPARAGED.

A scheme of biblical study which omitted the Old Testament would be strikingly defective, and there appears to me no valid reason for departing from the plan adopted in the International Series of Sunday School Lessons. Possibly some of the selections have not been wisely made, but, on the whole, the course pursued has been productive of a great increase of biblical study in the churches. Any change of plan which might seem to disparage the Old Testament revelation would probably effect more harm than good.

M. S. TERRY,
Evanston, Ill.

THE PROMINENCE GIVEN TO OLD TESTAMENT STUDY NOT TO BE DIMINISHED.

The Old Testament is the picture-book of our race. It was prepared for beginners in religion ; and it has its attractiveness and its adaptation to such beginners, always. To deprive our children of an acquaintance with the wonderful narratives of the Old Testament story, would be to deny them that which is divinely designed for their enjoyment and profit ; and to limit unwisely their means of pleasurable and all-important knowledge.

Moreover, the Old Testament is the basis of our religion. The New Testament has authority and power only as an outgrowth of, and as supplemental to, the truths of the Old Testament. No one can fully know, or can fairly appreciate, the New Testament without an acquaintance with the Old Testament. The study of the two is essential to a right understanding of either.